

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Conference Call Roll Call and Key Discussion Points Monday, February 22, 2016 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. EST

Roll Call

Tribal Caucus

- ☒ Region 1: Theo Willis (Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point)
- ☒ Region 1 *Alternate*: Trevor White (Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township)
- ☐ Region 2: Neil Patterson (Tuscarora Nation)
- ☒ Region 4: Katie Tiger (Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians)
- ☒ Region 5: Jeffrey Mears (Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin)
- ☒ Region 6: Curtis Munoz (Kiowa Tribe)
- ☐ Region 7: Carol Kriebs (Sac and Fox Nation)
- ☐ Region 8: Mike Durglo (Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes)
- ☐ Region 8 *Alternate*: Scott Clow (Ute Mountain Ute Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9: Carley Whitecrane (Karuk Tribe)
- ☐ Region 9 *Alternate*: Javier Silva (Sherwood Valley Tribal Environmental Program)
- ☐ Region 10: Lee Juan Tyler (Shoshone Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 *Alternate*: Ladd Edmo (Shoshone Bannock Tribes)
- ☐ Region 10 (Alaska): Orville Huntington (Tanana Chiefs Conference)

EPA Caucus

- ☒ Region 1: Robert Hillger
- ☒ Region 2: Kai Tang
- ☒ Region 4: Tom Baugh
- ☒ Region 5: Kathy Mayo
- ☐ Region 5 *Alternate*: Carole Braverman
- ☐ Region 6: Mark Allen
- ☒ Region 7: Brenda Groskinsky
- ☒ Region 7 *Alternate*: Amber Tucker
- ☒ Region 8: Patti Tyler
- ☐ Region 9: Destinee Cooper
- ☒ Region 10: Lon Kissinger
- ☐ AIEO: Mary Powell
- ☒ OAR: Lesley Jantarasami
- ☒ OCHP: Ted Coopwood
- ☒ OEI: Beth Jackson
- ☒ OCSPP: Karen Hamernik
- ☒ OLEM: David Charters
- ☒ ORD: David Jewett
- ☒ ORD: John McKernan
- ☐ OW: Felicia Wright

Support Personnel

- ☒ Monica Rodia, TSC Executive Secretary
- ☒ Mya Sjogren, NPD Liaison
- ☒ Kristen LeBaron, Support Contractor (SCG)

Other Attendees/Invited Speakers

- ☒ Ken Bailey
- ☒ Bridgett Chapin
- ☒ Renee Cook
- ☒ Cynthia McOliver
- ☒ Rosalva Tapia
- ☒ Dan Wildcat
- ☒ Kim Winton
- ☒ Barbara Wolfin

Action Items

1. TSC members who have photographs of TSC activities to include in the newsletter will contact Monica Rodia.
2. Bob Hillger will forward a current write-up on the Penobscot Indian Nation risk assessment effort to Monica to include in the next issue of the TSC newsletter.

Key Discussion Points

Meeting Minutes

- The December face-to-face meeting minutes were finalized, approved by the Co-Chairs, and distributed to the members. The presentations from the meeting will be published on the TSC website within the next week.
- The January teleconference minutes have been distributed for review. Comments are due to Monica no later than February 25.

EPA Caucus Update

- Several TSC members provided comments on Lac du Flambeau Tribe's Spear Fishing and Wild Rice Harvesting Survey, which represents the type of activity in which the TSC members should be participating.
- Topics of specific interest will be highlighted in future TSC Science Webinars; those members with ideas should contact Curtis Munoz, Dave Jewett and/or Monica.

Tribal Caucus Update

- During its recent call, the Tribal Caucus discussed the location of the upcoming face-to-face meeting. In addition to meeting in the Phoenix/Scottsdale area, which had been proposed previously, another idea was to hold the meeting in the Flagstaff area because Northern Arizona University houses the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), and the Navajo Nation and Hualapai Tribe are nearby. Possible presentation topics could include coal-fired power plants, water rights and quality, and drought impacts of climate change.
- During the call, the Tribal Caucus also discussed possible titles for the TSC newsletter and how best to disseminate the newsletter.

Roll Call

- Lesley Jantarasami has replaced Adam Baumgart-Getz as the Office of Air and Radiation representative; her job focus is on climate change science and impacts.
- The Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response is now the Office of Land and Emergency Management.

TSC Science Webinar: Developing Climate-Savvy Tribal Societies

- The South Central Climate Science Center (CSC) is the only CSC that has two full-time tribal liaisons and sovereign tribal nations serving on its consortium. The CSC's Tribal Engagement Strategy can be viewed at pubs.usgs.gov/circ/1396.
- Climate change adaptation is a multidisciplinary endeavor, so the goal of the South Central CSC is to work with tribes to develop various capacities for adapting to climate change while acknowledging that tribes are sovereign nations.
- The South Central CSC has engaged with tribes through consultation letters, identification of tribal representatives for advisory committees, an annual tribal engagement report, and tribal youth programs. The next steps are to begin tribal training and curriculum strategy meetings, hold quarterly interagency tribal engagement calls, and establish a curriculum council to identify beneficial strategies.

- To build tribal staff capacity, the South Central CSC provided tribes with “Climate 101” training in addition to training on tribal vulnerability assessment and environmental problem solving with GIS.
- A continuum of classes focusing on water and climate change is offered to tribes. The curriculum includes a quick overview class on “Water Quality 101” followed by intensive water quality training, a brief introduction to rapid ecological assessment, and classes on designing a watershed-scale study, data analysis, and environmental problem solving.
- These efforts forge relationships with tribes, and these relationships help the CSC to understand future tribal needs and develop classes to address these needs, taking into account the needs of various audiences.
- Karen Hamernik asked whether the curriculum includes discussions about the use of particular software or database packages and/or programming languages. Kim Winton responded that programming languages are not included. Much of the focus is on visualizing the data, but some software packages were introduced to the participants via demonstrations.
- Kim is interested in staying engaged with the TSC and would like to return to present about the science and work being performed by South Central CSC tribal partners.

TSC Science Webinar: Food Waste Reduction and Landscaping and Habitat Restoration Initiatives

- Haskell Indian Nations University is adopting a new campus master plan that includes designing new facilities and landscaping. The university also is focusing on a food recovery program to reduce cafeteria waste to zero. As a result, the Haskell Tribal ecoAmbassador project has two focal points: indigenous landscaping (including wetlands restoration to develop diverse wetlands) and food recycling/recovery.
- The landscaping project provides the opportunity to reintroduce medicinal plants and consider pollination and aviary populations in a long-term plan. This will enrich the environmental studies curriculum through field experiences for students. This is a lesson in turning a negative into a positive, as the project has resulted from a thoroughway being built in wetland areas that students used to visit. Current work focuses on creating area maps, identifying appropriate plants and common birds and mammals, making connections with potential partners, and establishing fundraising efforts.
- The ultimate goal of the recycling/recovery project is to make the campus more sustainable. A recycling pilot project to track waste amounts will begin the week of February 26 in one campus dormitory. A second effort focuses on campus ink cartridge recycling. The food sustainability effort has begun with food waste collection to determine the amount of daily food waste.

TSC Business Discussion Items

- The TSC members discussed the TSC newsletter.
 - The desire had been to identify a “catchy” name that reflected the newsletter’s Native American focus. The name of the newsletter will be the *EPA Tribal Science Bulletin*.
 - “Spotlights” of TSC members will be included in each future issue. The first issue highlights the two Co-Chairs.
 - Photographs of TSC activities are needed from the members. TSC members who have photographs to include in the newsletter will contact Monica.

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- A section of the newsletter entitled “EPA Corner” could be created to focus on EPA activities of interest to tribes.
- The next issue could include an update on the Penobscot Indian Nation risk assessment effort. Bob will forward to Monica a current write-up on the effort.
- A feature on outgoing and incoming TSC members could be included in a future issue.
- The TSC can discuss the new monthly call format after the March or April calls to help ensure that the new format is beneficial.
- The week of June 20–24 is the best week for the face-to-face meeting in terms of TSC member availability and for working with ITEP.
- In addition to Curtis, Dave and Monica, the Agenda Development Team should include TSC members with contacts in Arizona and those who are interested in serving on the team. Team members will be selected during upcoming Tribal and EPA Caucus meetings.

Announcements

- In line with EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy’s recent presentation to the National Congress of American Indians, EPA will hold a “Tribal Treaty Rights Twitter Town Hall” during the week of March 12. During the event, individuals can submit questions for EPA staff to answer via Twitter. When the press release about the event becomes available, Monica will forward it to the TSC members.

Next TSC Teleconference

- The next TSC teleconference will be held on Monday, March 21, 2016, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. EST.